

February 27, 1976

CLERK: No.

SENATOR KENNEDY: Let's try it. This is a non-controversial bill, too. I mean I am serious in saying it is.

PRESIDENT: I know you are serious, Senator. Lord knows you are always serious.

CLERK: LB 877 introduced by the Public Health and Welfare Committee. Read title. There are Committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR KENNEDY: I would move to adopt the Committee amendments and these Committee amendments, before I do that, just very briefly, let me explain that many of you know Mr. Rex Higley, working on many licensure problems, has worked for about four years to bring up-to-date. If you read the statement here, you will see that many of these laws go back to 1927, back to 1943. So he has worked very sincerely for the past four years trying to codify and bring up the laws to date, take out some of the language that has been changed over the years. Then we have a malpractice problem coming through and this will give the authority to the Board to examine any licensure person, whether it be a doctor, all people providing licensure acts, and that in writing the bill, we ran it through and there were a number, if you look at the amendments, there were a number of just typographical errors and at this time I would like to have you adopt the Committee amendments which were the typographical errors and corrections to coincide with what this entire bill will do. Now there was no opposition to the bill. It is a measure that was needed by the Health Department and the Examining Board, and so if you would adopt the Committee amendments at this time, they are written out. There are no serious changes in the Committee amendments. If there are any questions, fine. If not, I would ask that the Committee amendments be adopted at this time to LB 877.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: The amendments are adopted. Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KENNEDY: The main reason, as I have given you before, it was agreed it was time to update the statutes dealing with professional licensure as many of them went back to the 1943 and 1927 statutes. More definite provisions were needed relating to specific offenses in area of licensure and more flexibility was needed in taking various types of disciplinary action so that in-between measures between doing nothing and the alternate or license revocation may be taken. In other words, more leeway is needed in assessing the penalties and, of course, in LB 877, this will provide for that. This has been discussed with all the people that are licensed under this particular act. There has been a lot of work throughout the state revising these statutes and